The weights of different items in the consumption basket were determined on the basis of a comprehensive Family Income and Expenditure Survey. The relative weights of major consumption items in the present series are given below:

Consumption Items	Weightage
(*i*) Food	57.00
(*ii*) Pan, Supari, Tobacco & intoxicants . . .	3.15
(*iii*) Fuel & lights . . .	6.28
(*iv*) Housing	8.67
(*v*) Clothing, Bedding & Footwear	8.54
(*vi*) Miscellaneous (Medical-care, Education, Recreation, Transport, Personal Care Service etc.) . . .	16.36
TOTAL .	100.00

Amendment in the Bonded Labour Abolition Act

1341. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Bonded Labour Abolition Act, to provide a distinction between "adult" and "Child" bonded labour and to provide for more rigorous punishment for exploiting child bonded labour, especially the girl-child in bondage; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal at present.

Working Conditions of Child Workers

1342. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have caused any study into the working conditions of child-workers in the fire-works and match factories of Sivakasi, glass and glass bangles factories of Farozabad and carpet factories of Mirzapur, Badhoi and Varanasi;

(b) if so, the details of the findings thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to ban the exploitation and abuse of child-labour in these factories, declaring the work therein as hazardous, to bar such child labour under Article 24 of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Various studies have been undertaken, the latest being research studies sponsored by the Planning Commission on "Child Labour in Match Industries, Sivakasi", "Child Labour in Carpet Industry, Mirzapur" and "Child Labour in Glass Industry, Ferozabad".

The studies have confirmed prevalence of child labour, analysed the socio-economic factors leading to child labour and have highlight the health hazards. That have also pointed out the need for effective socio-legal interventions for prevention of employment of children, for ameliorating their living and working conditions. Further, they have emphasised the role of compulsory primary education, in eliminating child labour.

(c) Employment of children below 14 years in any factory is prohibited under the Factories Act, 1948. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in occupations and processes mentioned in the Schedule to the Act which include the processes of "Carpet weaving" and "manufacture of